



# Department of Justice

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## **Medford Resident Sentenced to 5 Years Federal Prison for Arson Conspiracy**

Medford, Ore. - U.S. District Court Judge Owen M. Panner sentenced Martin Joseph Angeleas, Jr., age 25, of Medford, to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to commit arson. Angeleas, Christopher Gilbert, and Joseph Faaeteete were arrested after a foiled attempt to burn down Ground Zero, a downtown Medford nightclub. On March 6, 2007, at approximately 3:20 a.m., a private security guard spotted Gilbert in an alley near Ground Zero, crouching behind a dumpster with two molotov cocktails and a five gallon gas can. Medford Police found two more gas cans stashed in the alley. Video surveillance cameras showed Angeleas circling Ground Zero moments before Gilbert's arrest, and then fleeing when the security patrol car arrived. Angeleas and Gilbert planned to throw the molotov cocktails on Ground Zero's roof. Medford Police Detective Brent Mak determined that the threesome stole the gas containers from a parked pickup truck thinking they contained diesel fuel. In fact, the containers were filled with hydraulic fluid. At the time, Angeleas was a bouncer for Highwaters, another downtown Medford bar. Gilbert and Faaeteete are pending sentencing.

Angeleas was convicted after a jury trial in the federal district court in Medford. The case was investigated jointly by the Medford Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The case was prosecuted by AUSA Doug Fong.